

OVC M&E WORKSHOP

Needs assessment tools

Family Health International (FHI)

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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Brief introduction to needs assessment
 - What, How and Why
- Methods used to conduct needs assessments
- Example of a household survey (design and tool)
- Ethical considerations
- Possible challenges

INTRODUCTION

What is a needs assessment?

- The gathering and analyzing of information to understand what problems exist in the community and what needs to be done to address them
 - Differs from a situational analysis which is broader and articulates magnitude and impact of the OVC situation
 - Stakeholder involvement (communities, households, OVC)

PURPOSES

Why conduct a needs assessment?

- Informs program planning & implementation
- Guides decisions about program content, target group and services
- Targeting services to reach the most needy
- Needs assessment informs M&E
 - Provides baseline data for evaluation
 - M&E monitors if program is reaching intended target groups

METHODS

- Qualitative methods
 - ✓ Focus groups
 - ✓ In-depth interviews
 - ✓ Case studies
 - ✓ Participatory methodologies
- Quantitative methods
 - ✓ Household survey
 - ✓ Cost analysis

HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

- Organization of the survey
 - The primary caregiver is usually the respondent
 - Can include all children or a specific target group
 - Can include households with and without OVC for comparison and to avoid stigma
- Possible survey domains include:
 - Socio-economic characteristics
 - Educational needs

HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

Survey domains continued:

- Health status, health care access and quality
- Nutritional needs
- Psychosocial needs
- Legal needs (birth & ID docs, inheritance issues)

SURVEY DESIGN

Purposively selected community/ies



Randomly selected EAs within selected communities
using census data



Listing exercises conducted with all homes in selected EAs



- Homes assigned numbers and grouped into: a) homes with OVC; b) homes without OVC
- Equal number of OVC and non-OVC homes randomly selected from each list



Visiting selected homes and interviewing primary caregivers

BACKGROUND DETAILS

- Geographical location
- Household number
- Interview visit: date, name of interviewer, result
- Listing of all household members
- OVC situation: Mother/father alive, year of parent's death, cause of death

HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

Aim: To determine socio-economic characteristics of households in which children live

- Housing condition and facilities e.g type of dwelling, ownership, source of drinking water & energy, sanitation
- Household assets and income: Source of income, no. of family members earning regular income, support to other children/families
- Household food security: No & type of meals per day
- Access to services: Education, psycho-social, health, life skills, legal

CHILD'S EDUCATION

Aim: To determine school enrolment, attendance and completion. Education is an important indicator of current and future socio-economic status.

- Number of years of school completed
- Current school attendance
- Frequency, duration and reason for absences from school
- Payment of school fees

CHILD'S HEALTH

Aim: To assess child's health status and access to health facilities

- Child's health status
- Number of visits to health centre in the past month/2 weeks
- Nature and duration of illness
- Number of times child has been hospitalized in the past year
- Chronic illness
- Immunization card
- Access to health facilities
- Health services needed but not received
- Development e.g. height and weight

CHILD'S PSYCHOSOCIAL WELL-BEING

Aim: To assess psychosocial well-being including behavior, emotional and developmental needs

- Behavior: Restless, cry frequently, refuse to eat, fight with other children, destructive, argumentative
- Emotional: Anxiety, fear, withdrawal, depression, sadness, mood swings, trouble sleeping

NUTRITION

Aim: To assess child's access to regular meals and nutrition

- Number of meals eaten in a day
- Content of meals
- Does household grow any food crops?
- How often child has gone without food in the past 3 months?

LEGAL ISSUES

Aim: To investigate issues regarding inheritance and property rights. Women and children often vulnerable to poverty after head of household dies.

- Possession of a will
- Women and childrens' access to property
- Birth and ID documents
- Occurrence of property stealing

CAREGIVER QUESTIONS

- Demographic data: marital status, education, source of income
- Caregiver role and activities
- Caregiver's health status
- Caregiver perceptions of HIV/OVC situation
- Community resources and support system

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Ethical clearance required for protection of human subjects
- Rights of participants must be considered and respected
- Consent form necessary to assure confidentiality, explain procedures, possible risks and benefits and document participant's consent. The form could include sections on:
 - ✓ Purpose of the study
 - ✓ Procedures of the study
 - ✓ Possible risks/discomforts and benefits

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS CONTINUED

- ✓ Confidentiality
- ✓ Questions
- ✓ Compensation
- ✓ Voluntary participation and withdrawal
- ✓ Agreement

Other issues to consider:

- ✓ Who has the authority to give permission for a child to participate?
- ✓ What to do when the assessment uncovers child abuse, neglect or malnutrition?

POSSIBLE CHALLENGES

- Resources: Time, finances, expertise
- Methods:
 - Participatory methods not frequently used due to lack of skills and need for quantifiable assessment
 - Household surveys will not capture information on children NOT living in households

EXAMPLE OF ASSESSMENT TOOL

- Example of tools from FHI Zambia's OVC needs assessment currently in progress
- Not done in SA yet due to resource limitations

GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR
ASSESSMENTS!